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1. On 21 September 1948, a conference was held at Berlin-Verdenschloss to discuss the function of the railroads within the framework of the two-year plan. [REDACTED]

2. Generals Kvashnin and Voevodsky were particularly harsh in their criticism of the general condition of the railroads in the eastern zone. They were aware of the many shortages and difficulties facing the German railroad system, but held the individual Reichsbahndirektion presidents to blame. General Kvashnin said that the presidents were not showing enough initiative, and that they were requisitioning items that they knew could not be supplied by the German Economic Commission. For example, he said that the president of RBD Erfurt should not be facing the winter with a shortage of brooms and electric light bulbs. Erfurt is in a wooded area, and brooms should have been made by the railroad employees if they could not be bought. The shortage of electric light bulbs could easily have been anticipated and oil lamps could have been obtained. He expected the individual presidents to assume the responsibility for repairing their equipment, supplying their workers with adequate clothing and housing, and training new apprentices. He realized that there were central offices for these problems, but felt that the presidents should not allow poor conditions to prevail merely because of a bottleneck or shortages in the central offices; they would either have to attend to such matters themselves or see to it that they were adequately handled in the central offices.

3. All present were reminded of the importance of the railroads in the two-year plan, and told that they must keep the railroads in good condition, without draining the production or manpower of